



Ecosystems



What is requested? The FY 2007 budget request for the NOAA Ecosystems Goal totals \$1099.8M, reflecting a net increase of \$107.6M over the FY 2007 base level. The goal integrates NOAA resources to make progress on two key strategic outcomes: 1) Healthy and productive coastal and marine ecosystems that benefit society and 2) A well informed public that acts as a steward of coastal and marine ecosystems. Requested program funding increases include: \$11.2 M in Habitat Conservation, \$22.5M in Protected Species, \$31.9M for Ecosystems and Fisheries Research and Management, \$7.5M in Enforcement and Observers, \$4.7M for Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, and \$5.0M for Undersea Research.

What are the benefits? Strengthened stock assessment efforts will lead to more fisheries managed at sustainable levels, and increased protection of vulnerable species. Increased habitat restoration such as restoring stream miles of fish habitat through the Open Rivers Initiative, support the President's Cooperative Conservation Initiative (Executive Order 13352). Enhanced monitoring leads to greater fisheries compliance. Increased socio-economic data collection benefits coastal community economies. The Fishery Management Program will improve its quality and timeliness of regulatory processes and policy development. Increased fisheries production can be achieved via aquaculture. Improved health of coral reefs will be realized through local state and territory capacity building. Increased capacity of local and state managers will help protect, restore and manage the coast and marine environment by taking a comprehensive approach to balancing protection and use of these ecosystems.

Why do we need it? NOAA's primary initiative is to advance ecosystem-based approaches to coastal and ocean resources, consistent with the direction in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's 2004 report, An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century. By applying innovative strategies to improve internal and external coordination and integration based on ecosystem principles, and by establishing baselines and integrated observations of ecosystem indicators, NOAA will increase the effectiveness of its many program activities intended to produce healthy and productive ecosystems that benefit society. Initiating ecosystem approaches to management requires better monitoring and characterization, and more effective integration and collaboration among NOAA programs and its external partners.

What will we do? NOAA will review the status of vulnerable species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. We will assess the economic effects of large-scale environmental events such as hurricanes, hypoxia, and red tide. With our partners, we will develop harmful algal bloom and hypoxia forecasting and response capabilities. NOAA will improve protection and management of coral habitats through local action strategies, as well as the scientific and analytical foundation for a national system of marine protected areas. NOAA will use a competitive grant program to fund projects to remove small dam and river barriers. NOAA will further actions illustrated in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan by: creating a Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program, expanding dedicated fishery access privilege programs, improving regional collaboration and planning of coastal state managers to improve management of coastal watersheds and marine resource areas, and enhancing observing and information delivery systems to inform public as part of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). Finally, NOAA will increase participation in Regional Fishery Councils stimulating improved compliance and deterrence.

For more information, contact the NOAA Budget Office: (202) 482-4600 – or – AskNOAABudget@noaa.gov

Ecosystems FY 2007 Budget Request (\$ in Millions)			
	FY07 Base	Program Change	Request
ORF	\$ 894.4	\$ 105.3	\$ 999.7
PAC	\$ 4.9	\$ 2.3	\$ 7.2
Other	\$ 92.9	\$ 0.0	\$ 92.9
TOTAL	\$ 992.2	\$ 107.6	\$ 1,099.8